Nation's Leaders Eulogize Kennedy At Ceremonies In Capitol Rotunda

WASHINGTON (AP)—"There was a sound of laughter; in a moment, it was no more. And so, she took a ring from her finger and placed it in his hands."

And thus Mike Mansfield, Senate Democratic Leader, described the swift transition from life to death for John F. Kennedy, president, husband, and father, dead by an assassin's bullets.

He spoke in eulogy to the late president yesterday as the flag-draped casket lay under the Great Capitol Rotunda.

With Mrs. Kennedy standing nearby, eyes circled with sorrow, and holding the hand of daughter Caroline, Mansfield spoke of the moments when Mrs. Kennedy passed her ring to her lifeless husband.

"A piece of each of us died at that moment," said Mansfield. "Yet, in death he gave of himself to us. He gave us a good heart from which the laughter came. He gave us of kindness and strength fused into human courage to seek peace without fear."

Chief Justice Earl Warren, in his eulogy of the slain chief executive, declared:

"What moved some misguided wretch to do this horrible deed may never be known to us, but we do know that such acts are commonly stimulated by forces of hatred and malevolence, such as today are eating their way into the mainstream of American life.

"What a price we pay for this fanaticism!"

House Speaker John McCormack, D-Mass., said that "at each great crisis in our history we have found a leader able to grasp the helm of state and guide the country through the troubles which beset it."

President Kennedy had such greatness, declared McCormack, and "now that our great leader has been taken from us in a cruel death we are bound to feel shattered and helpless in the face of our loss."

But, added the speaker, when the first pangs of grief pass "we must thank God that we were privileged, however briefly, to have had this great man for our president. For he now has taken his place among the great figures of our world history."

Crowds line up in the cold night to wait their turn to view Kennedy in the rotunda of the Capitol.